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Agenda item 134

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (thematic cluster I, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General) (A/70/348/Add.8 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 10 March 2016.

2. The proposed resources for the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, relating to Burundi, would be in addition to the resource requirements for special political missions included in the main report of the Secretary-General (A/70/348), which provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2016 for 35 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. The specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and for the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, are covered in the five addendums to the report (A/70/348/Add.1-5). The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section XX of its resolution 70/248, had endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee and had



approved a total amount of \$567,252,400 against the provision of special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

II. Mandate and resource requirements for 2016

A. Mandate and planning

3. The Security Council, in its resolution 2248 (2015) of 12 November 2015, welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, to work with the Government of Burundi and other concerned stakeholders, as well as sub-regional, regional and other international partners, in support of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflict and in support of national efforts to build and sustain peace. In the same resolution, the Council also invited the Secretary-General to deploy a team in Burundi to coordinate and work with the Government of Burundi, the African Union and other partners to assess the situation and develop options to address political and security concerns. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to update the Council within 15 days, including by presenting options, on the future presence of the United Nations in Burundi. In his letter dated 1 December 2015 (S/2015/926) to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General provided a review of the situation in Burundi and two proposed options for consideration by the Council, namely, either a multidimensional integrated peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations or a fully-fledged integrated special political mission. The Secretary-General also recommended in his letter that the Council review the mandate of the United Nations presence as the situation on the ground evolved. At the time of writing the present report, the Council had taken no further action with respect to the future presence of the United Nations in Burundi.

B. Resource requirements for 2016

4. The proposed resource requirements for 2016 for the newly established Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General (thematic cluster I), relating to Burundi, amount to \$9,435,200 (net) (see table 1). The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, pending the preparation and submission of the present budget proposal, the initial requirements of the Office of the Special Adviser are being met through a commitment authority of the Secretary-General in the amount of \$1,631,100, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/250 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2016-2017, which would be reversed following the decision of the Assembly on the present report.

5. The Advisory Committee points out that the resource requirements in connection with the current staffing proposal are linked to the location of the Special Adviser, who is currently located in New York (see also paras. 21 and 22 below). The Committee recalls that it has made general comments and recommendations on the location of the special advisers and special envoys in the context of its main report on special political missions (see A/69/628, paras. 63-65).

Table 1
Summary of resource requirements

(Thousands of United States dollars)

1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015			Requirements for 2016		Variance 2015-2016	
Appropriations	Estimated expenditures	Variance under- (over-) expenditures	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Approved budget 2015	Variance
(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(4)-(6)
Total requirements	-	-	9 435.2	217.5	-	-

Civilian staffing requirements

6. The proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Adviser, relating to Burundi, for 2016 are summarized in table 2 below.

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Positions	Level
Approved positions for 2015	-	-
Proposed positions for 2016	49	1 USG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 7 P-4, 6 P-3, 16 FS, 2 GS, 2 NPO, 5 LL

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; D, Director; P, Professional; FS, Field Service; GS, General Service; NPO, National Professional Officer; LL, Local level.

7. A total of 49 positions are proposed for 2016, for the Office of the Special Adviser, to be located in Burundi and at United Nations Headquarters:

(a) New York (nine positions):

(i) Office of the Special Adviser (5 positions comprising 1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level));

(ii) Political Coordination and Reporting Unit (3 positions comprising 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level));

(iii) Department of Political Affairs (1 P-3 to provide backstopping support);

(b) Burundi (40 positions):

(i) Office of the Chief of Staff (5 positions comprising 1 D-2, 1 P-4, 2 National Professional Officers and 1 Field Service);

(ii) Dialogue Unit (6 positions comprising 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 P-3);

(iii) Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit (5 positions comprising 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3);

(iv) Mission Support Unit (13 positions comprising 1 P-5, 1 P-3, 6 Field Service, 2 Local level, and 3 Drivers (Local level));

(v) Safety and Security Unit (11 positions comprising 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 9 Field Service).

8. With respect to the staff on board as at 29 February 2016, the Advisory Committee was advised, upon enquiry, that 18 positions were encumbered, as follows: 1 USG, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 5 Local level.

9. The proposed staffing requirements for 2016 are described in paragraphs 19 to 28 of the report of the Secretary-General. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a proposed organization chart (see annex).

Proposed staffing at United Nations Headquarters (New York)

10. Included in the staffing request of the Secretary-General is a proposal to establish two Public Information Officer positions, one at the P-3 level, to be located in New York in the Office of the Special Adviser, and one at the P-4 level, to be located in Burundi in the Office of the Chief of Staff (A/70/348/Add.8 and Corr.1, paras. 20 and 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Public Information Officer (P-4) in Burundi would develop and implement a communications strategy for the Office of the Special Adviser, develop strategic partnerships with key local partners and supervise national staff responsible for local media monitoring and that the Public Information Officer (P-3) in New York would directly advise the Special Adviser on developments in the media landscape and on his engagement with international and regional media, including social media, draft press statements and organize press conferences. **The Advisory Committee considers that any residual public information tasks that can presumably only be performed in New York should be organized by other professional staff in the Office of the Special Adviser, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, as required. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the Public Information Officer (P-3) position in New York in the Office of the Special Adviser.**

11. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) position to be located in New York within the Africa I Division of the Department of Political Affairs to provide backstopping functions for the Office of the Special Adviser (*ibid.*, para. 22). The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General further proposes the establishment of two additional Political Affairs Officers positions in New York, namely, one in the Office of the Special Adviser and the other in the Political Coordination and Reporting Unit (*ibid.*, paras. 20 (c) and 21 (b)). **The Advisory Committee considers, however, that at this early stage of the work of the Burundi team, the three proposed Political Affairs Officers (1 P-5, and 2 P-4) to be located in New York in both the Office of the Special Adviser and in the Political Coordination and Reporting Unit should be sufficient to handle the workload associated with any necessary backstopping and liaison functions. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) position in the Department of Political Affairs for backstopping functions.**

Proposed staffing in Burundi

12. In the Office of the Chief of Staff, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a Chief of Staff (D-2) position to lead the team in Burundi (*ibid.*, para. 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition to ensuring the effective functioning and strategic direction of the Office, the Chief of

Staff would also be responsible for representational functions and would meet with high-level government officials and other stakeholders, including members of the United Nations country team, when the Special Adviser was not present in the country. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of a Chief of Staff (D-2) position in view of the high-level responsibilities involved in this case, which go beyond those of a typical Chief of Staff position.**

13. As noted in paragraph 7 above, the request of the Secretary-General includes the proposed establishment, in Burundi, of a Dialogue Support Unit, comprising six staff positions to be headed by a Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1), and of a Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit, comprising five staff positions to be headed by a Principal Security Sector Reform Officer (D-1) (*ibid.*, paras. 25 and 26). The Secretary-General indicates that the Head of the Dialogue Support Unit would liaise with stakeholders, including the Government of Burundi and regional and sub-regional organizations and that the Head of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit would coordinate activities concerning disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and security sector reform. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that advice in support of the political dialogue and matters related to advice on security sector issues were considered to be issues that were interrelated but distinct. **The Advisory Committee considers that, at this early stage of the presence of the United Nations, the activities of the Dialogue Support Unit and of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit would be phased in gradually and would require intense coordination and collaboration among the responsible staff, as the situation on the ground continued to evolve. The Committee is therefore of the view that, for the time being, the respective functions of the two Units should be performed under one umbrella, by one consolidated unit, under the supervision of one Principal Officer (D-1), to be supported by staff with the required political and/or security sector-related expertise. The Committee therefore recommends the establishment of one, but not both, of the Principal Officer (D-1) positions.**

14. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of a Security Sector Reform Officer (P-3) position for the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit to support the Unit in designing a strategy for disarmament and the security sector (*ibid.*, para. 26 (e)). For the Dialogue Support Unit, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) position for the purpose of working closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) country office and, among other responsibilities, ensuring that human rights information is integrated into reports to the Security Council and that the issue of human rights is mainstreamed into the Office's activities. The Advisory Committee notes that these functions also form part of the responsibilities of the position of the Unit's proposed Human Rights Officer (P-4). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Human Rights Officer would also perform liaison functions with the OHCHR office in Burundi since OHCHR would not be expected to provide backstopping to the Office of the Special Adviser.

15. In view of its comments in paragraph 13 above, in which it recommends the merger of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit and the Dialogue Support Unit, and considering the active engagement on the ground of a number of agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations system that cover a wide range of political and human rights issues, the Advisory Committee believes that security sector-related tasks could be performed, at

the present time, by the Senior Security Sector Officers (P-5) and that tasks related to human rights report drafting and liaising should be performed by the proposed Human Rights Officer (P-4) who would have the required expertise. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one Security Sector Reform Officer (P-3) position and against the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-4) position.

16. The proposed staffing requirements of the Mission Support Unit, comprising 13 international and national staff members, is described in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General, and includes a variety of functions which, considering the small size of the mission, overlap with services that will be provided remotely from the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Centre would perform transactions for finance and human resources functions and has, to-date, provided support in connection with the onboarding of international staff, the travel of close protection officers to Burundi, the deployment of staff on temporary duty assignment and cashier functions. The Committee was furthermore informed that no costs relating to the provision of such services had been included in the proposed budget for 2016, as it was not anticipated that the Centre would require additional resources for this specific purpose.

17. With regard to the small size of the operation at this stage and the finance and human resources support readily available through the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee recommends that the staffing requirements of the Mission Support Unit be streamlined, as follows:

(a) The Committee recommends against the establishment of two separate positions, namely, of a Finance Officer (Field Service) and of a Human Resources Officer (Field Service); and recommends the establishment of one Administrative Officer (Field Service) position to provide on-site support in the areas of finance and human resources to augment the support provided by the Centre;

(b) The Committee recommends against the establishment of one Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) position, in view of the proposed Information Systems Officer (Field Service) position;

(c) The Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the three proposed Driver (Local level) positions, in view of the limited need for such a function for such a small operation.

18. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposed by the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Adviser, subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 15 and 17 above. Any related non-post resources associated with the recommendations, including resources under official travel, should also be adjusted.

Operational costs

19. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the projected operational requirements for 2016 for the Office of the Special Adviser, as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3
Operational costs
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	Approved budget 2015	Requirements for 2016		Variance
		Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	
Operational costs				
Consultants	–	232.6	–	232.6
Official travel	–	1 569.0	–	1 569.0
Facilities and infrastructure	–	1 718.4	–	1 718.4
Ground transportation	–	180.4	–	180.4
Communications	–	554.5	–	554.5
Information technology	–	230.7	17.5	230.7
Medical	–	204.0	–	204.0
Other supplies, services and equipment	–	252.1	200.0	252.1
Total	–	4 941.7	217.5	4 941.7

Consultants

20. The Advisory Committee was informed that an amount of \$232,600 for 2016 for four consultants was requested to provide specialized knowledge and expertise to the Special Adviser, as required, primarily with regard to the following: (a) lessons learned and good practices from dialogue processes in other countries; (b) disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/security sector reform programming and expertise in special technical areas; and (c) legal and constitutional expertise in support of dialogue processes. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the work in connection with these proposed consultancies is duplicative as such expertise would be expected to be provided by expert senior staff, specifically by staff in the Dialogue Support Unit and the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit, which the Advisory Committee has recommended should be merged (see para. 13 above). The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of \$116,300, or 50 per cent, in the proposed resources for 2016 under consultants.**

Official travel

21. The proposed requirements under official travel for 2016 amount to \$1.57 million. The Advisory Committee was informed that these resources would provide for official travel for the Security Council to visit Burundi in January 2016 (\$332,000) and for the Special Adviser and his staff (\$1,237,000) to undertake regular visits to Burundi for consultations with government officials and other national and international stakeholders and to travel regionally and internationally for consultations with Member States, United Nations offices, the African Union, the East African Community and non-governmental organizations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that it was envisioned that the Special Adviser would undertake 66 trips in 2016, ranging from one to five days, and would be

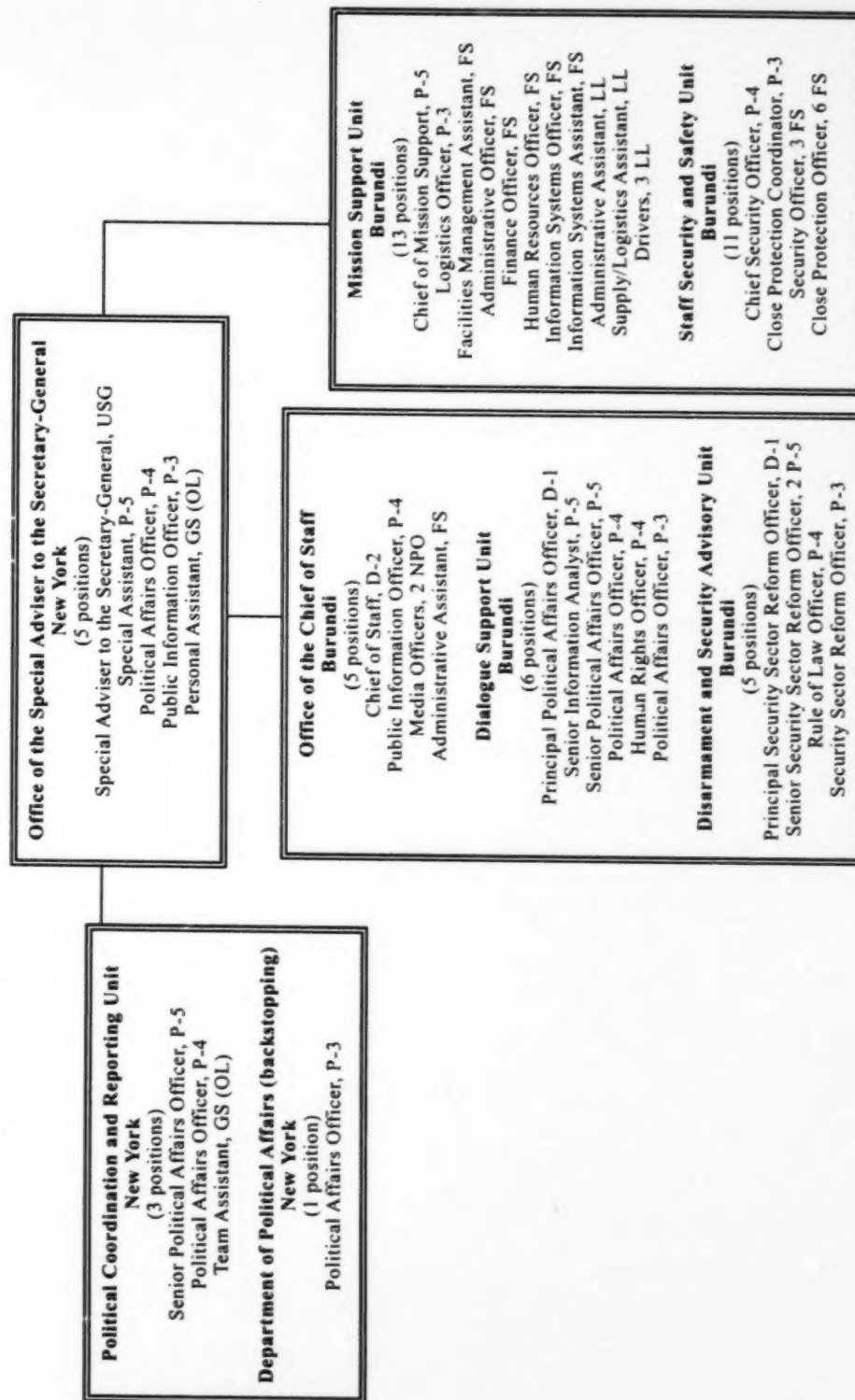
accompanied by three staff members on most occasions. In this connection, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that it was not possible, at present, for the Special Adviser to be located in the country and that this was the reason for the travel requirement. With regard to the travel of staff on temporary duty assignment from other missions, who are available to travel to the team in Burundi during the first months of the operation of the mission, the Committee was informed that the requirement of \$248,000 for that purpose would provide for the travel of 22 such staff for a combined duration of 643 days, during the period from January to May 2016.

22. The Advisory Committee emphasizes that resources for official travel must be utilized judiciously and that trips should be consolidated, when operationally appropriate. Other means of communication, including videoconferencing, should be utilized and the requirements for accompanying staff should be reduced, as appropriate.

III. Recommendations for action required of the General Assembly

23. The resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General (thematic cluster I), which are set out in paragraphs 30 (a) and (b) of the report of the Secretary-General, are not included in the resources for special political missions, approved by the General Assembly, in section XX of its resolution 70/248. Subject to its recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the budget in the amount of \$8,942,100 net (\$9,916,500 gross) for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the period from January to December 2016; and approval of a charge in the amount of \$8,942,100 (net of staff assessment) against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

Proposed organization chart for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, 2016



Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; D, Director; P, Professional; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

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I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (thematic cluster I, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General) (A/70/348/Add.8 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 10 March 2016.

2. The proposed resources for the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, relating to Burundi, would be in addition to the resource requirements for special political missions included in the main report of the Secretary-General (A/70/348), which provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2016 for 35 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. The specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and for the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, are covered in the five addendums to the report (A/70/348/Add.1-5). The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section XX of its resolution 70/248, had endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee and had approved a total amount of



\$567,252,400 against the provision of special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

II. Mandate and resource requirements for 2016

A. Mandate and planning

3. The Security Council, in its resolution 2248 (2015) of 12 November 2015, welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, to work with the Government of Burundi and other concerned stakeholders, as well as subregional, regional and other international partners, in support of an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflict and in support of national efforts to build and sustain peace. In the same resolution, the Council also invited the Secretary-General to deploy a team in Burundi to coordinate and work with the Government of Burundi, the African Union and other partners to assess the situation and develop options to address political and security concerns. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to update the Council within 15 days, including by presenting options, on the future presence of the United Nations in Burundi. In his letter dated 1 December 2015 (S/2015/926) to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General provided a review of the situation in Burundi and two proposed options for consideration by the Council, namely, either a multidimensional integrated peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations or a fully-fledged integrated special political mission. The Secretary-General also recommended in his letter that the Council review the mandate of the United Nations presence as the situation on the ground evolved. At the time of writing the present report, the Council had taken no further action with respect to the future presence of the United Nations in Burundi.

B. Resource requirements for 2016

4. The proposed resource requirements for 2016 for the newly established Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General (thematic cluster I), relating to Burundi, amount to \$9,435,200 (net) (see table I). The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, pending the preparation and submission of the present budget proposal, the initial requirements of the Office of the Special Adviser are being met through a commitment authority of the Secretary-General in the amount of \$1,631,100, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/250 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2016-2017, which would be reversed following the decision of the Assembly on the present report.

5. The Advisory Committee points out that the resource requirements in connection with the current staffing proposal are linked to the location of the Special Adviser, who is currently located in New York (see also paras. 21 and 22 below). The Committee recalls that it has made general comments and recommendations on the location of the special advisers and special envoys in the context of its main report on special political missions (see A/69/628, paras. 63-65).

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Civilian staffing requirements

6. The proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Adviser, relating to Burundi, for 2016 are summarized in table 2 below.

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Positions	Level
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Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; D, Director; P, Professional; FS, Field Service; GS, General Service; NPO, National Professional Officer; LL, Local level.

7. A total of 49 positions are proposed for 2016, for the Office of the Special Adviser, to be located in Burundi and at United Nations Headquarters:

- (a) New York (nine positions):
 - (i) Office of the Special Adviser (5 positions comprising 1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level));
 - (ii) Political Coordination and Reporting Unit (3 positions comprising 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level));
 - (iii) Department of Political Affairs (1 P-3 to provide backstopping support);
- (b) Burundi (40 positions):
 - (i) Office of the Chief of Staff (5 positions comprising 1 D-2, 1 P-4, 2 National Professional Officers and 1 Field Service);
 - (ii) Dialogue Unit (6 positions comprising 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 P-3);
 - (iii) Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit (5 positions comprising 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3);
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 - (v) Safety and Security Unit (11 positions comprising 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 9 Field Service).

8. With respect to the staff on board as at 29 February 2016, the Advisory Committee was advised, upon enquiry, that 18 positions were encumbered, as follows: 1 USG, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 5 Local level.

9. The proposed staffing requirements for 2016 are described in paragraphs 19 to 28 of the report of the Secretary-General. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a proposed organization chart (see annex).

Proposed staffing at United Nations Headquarters (New York)

10. Included in the staffing request of the Secretary-General is a proposal to establish two Public Information Officer positions, one at the P-3 level, to be located in New York in the Office of the Special Adviser, and one at the P-4 level, to be located in Burundi in the Office of the Chief of Staff (A/70/348/Add.8 and Corr.1, paras. 20 and 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Public Information Officer (P-4) in Burundi would develop and implement a communications strategy for the Office of the Special Adviser, develop strategic partnerships with key local partners and supervise national staff responsible for local media monitoring and that the Public Information Officer (P-3) in New York would directly advise the Special Adviser on developments in the media landscape and on his engagement with international and regional media, including social media, draft press statements and organize press conferences. **The Advisory Committee considers that any residual public information tasks that can presumably only be performed in New York should be organized by other professional staff in the Office of the Special Adviser, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, as required. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the Public Information Officer (P-3) position in New York in the Office of the Special Adviser.**

11. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) position to be located in New York within the Africa I Division of the Department of Political Affairs to provide backstopping functions for the Office of the Special Adviser (ibid., para. 22). The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General further proposes the establishment of two additional Political Affairs Officers positions in New York, namely, one in the Office of the Special Adviser and the other in the Political Coordination and Reporting Unit (ibid., paras. 20 (c) and 21 (b)). **The Advisory Committee considers, however, that at this early stage of the work of the Burundi team, the three proposed Political Affairs Officers (1 P-5, and 2 P-4) to be located in New York in both the Office of the Special Adviser and in the Political Coordination and Reporting Unit should be sufficient to handle the workload associated with any necessary backstopping and liaison functions. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) position in the Department of Political Affairs for backstopping functions.**

Proposed staffing in Burundi

12. In the Office of the Chief of Staff, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a Chief of Staff (D-2) position to lead the team in Burundi (ibid., para. 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition to ensuring the effective functioning and strategic direction of the Office, the Chief of

Staff would also be responsible for representational functions and would meet with high-level government officials and other stakeholders, including members of the United Nations country team, when the Special Adviser was not present in the country. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of a Chief of Staff (D-2) position in view of the high-level responsibilities involved in this case, which go beyond those of a typical Chief of Staff position.**

13. As noted in paragraph 7 above, the request of the Secretary-General includes the proposed establishment, in Burundi, of a Dialogue Support Unit, comprising six staff positions to be headed by a Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1), and of a Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit, comprising five staff positions to be headed by a Principal Security Sector Reform Officer (D-1) (*ibid.*, paras. 25 and 26). The Secretary-General indicates that the Head of the Dialogue Support Unit would liaise with stakeholders, including the Government of Burundi and regional and subregional organizations and that the Head of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit would coordinate activities concerning disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and security sector reform. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that advice in support of the political dialogue and matters related to advice on security sector issues were considered to be issues that were interrelated but distinct. **The Advisory Committee considers that, at this early stage of the presence of the United Nations, the activities of the Dialogue Support Unit and of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit would be phased in gradually and would require intense coordination and collaboration among the responsible staff, as the situation on the ground continued to evolve. The Committee is therefore of the view that, for the time being, the respective functions of the two Units should be performed under one umbrella, by one consolidated unit, under the supervision of one Principal Officer (D-1), to be supported by staff with the required political and/or security sector-related expertise. The Committee therefore recommends the establishment of one, but not both, of the Principal Officer (D-1) positions.**

14. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of a Security Sector Reform Officer (P-3) position for the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit to support the Unit in designing a strategy for disarmament and the security sector (*ibid.*, para. 26 (e)). For the Dialogue Support Unit, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) position for the purpose of working closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) country office and, among other responsibilities, ensuring that human rights information is integrated into reports to the Security Council and that the issue of human rights is mainstreamed into the Office's activities. The Advisory Committee notes that these functions also form part of the responsibilities of the position of the Unit's proposed Human Rights Officer (P-4). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Human Rights Officer would also perform liaison functions with the OHCHR office in Burundi since OHCHR would not be expected to provide backstopping to the Office of the Special Adviser.

15. **In view of its comments in paragraph 13 above, in which it recommends the merger of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit and the Dialogue Support Unit, and considering the active engagement on the ground of a number of agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations system that cover a wide range of political and human rights issues, the Advisory Committee believes that security sector-related tasks could be performed, at**

the present time, by the Senior Security Sector Officers (P-5) and that tasks related to human rights report drafting and liaising should be performed by the proposed Human Rights Officer (P-4) who would have the required expertise. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one Security Sector Reform Officer (P-3) position and against the establishment of one Political Affairs Officer (P-4) position.

16. The proposed staffing requirements of the Mission Support Unit, comprising 13 international and national staff members, is described in paragraph 27 of the report of the Secretary-General, and includes a variety of functions which, considering the small size of the mission, overlap with services that will be provided remotely from the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Centre would perform transactions for finance and human resources functions and has, to-date, provided support in connection with the onboarding of international staff, the travel of close protection officers to Burundi, the deployment of staff on temporary duty assignment and cashier functions. The Committee was furthermore informed that no costs relating to the provision of such services had been included in the proposed budget for 2016, as it was not anticipated that the Centre would require additional resources for this specific purpose.

17. With regard to the small size of the operation at this stage and the finance and human resources support readily available through the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee recommends that the staffing requirements of the Mission Support Unit be streamlined, as follows:

(a) The Committee recommends against the establishment of two separate positions, namely, of a Finance Officer (Field Service) and of a Human Resources Officer (Field Service); and recommends the establishment of one Administrative Officer (Field Service) position to provide on-site support in the areas of finance and human resources to augment the support provided by the Centre;

(b) The Committee recommends against the establishment of one Information Systems Assistant (Field Service) position, in view of the proposed Information Systems Officer (Field Service) position;

(c) The Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the three proposed Driver (Local level) positions, in view of the limited need for such a function for such a small operation.

18. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposed by the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Adviser, subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 15 and 17 above. Any related non-post resources associated with the recommendations, including resources under official travel, should also be adjusted.

Operational costs

19. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the projected operational requirements for 2016 for the Office of the Special Adviser, as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3
Operational costs
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	Approved budget 2015	Requirements for 2016		Variance
		Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	
Operational costs				
Consultants	-	232.6	-	232.6
Official travel	-	1 569.0	-	1 569.0
Facilities and infrastructure	-	1 718.4	-	1 718.4
Ground transportation	-	180.4	-	180.4
Communications	-	554.5	-	554.5
Information technology	-	230.7	17.5	230.7
Medical	-	204.0	-	204.0
Other supplies, services and equipment	-	252.1	200.0	252.1
Total	-	4 941.7	217.5	4 941.7

Consultants

20. The Advisory Committee was informed that an amount of \$232,600 for 2016 for four consultants was requested to provide specialized knowledge and expertise to the Special Adviser, as required, primarily with regard to the following: (a) lessons learned and good practices from dialogue processes in other countries; (b) disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/security sector reform programming and expertise in special technical areas; and (c) legal and constitutional expertise in support of dialogue processes. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the work in connection with these proposed consultancies is duplicative as such expertise would be expected to be provided by expert senior staff, specifically by staff in the Dialogue Support Unit and the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit, which the Advisory Committee has recommended should be merged (see para. 13 above). The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of \$116,300, or 50 per cent, in the proposed resources for 2016 under consultants.**

Official travel

21. The proposed requirements under official travel for 2016 amount to \$1.57 million. The Advisory Committee was informed that these resources would provide for official travel for the Security Council to visit Burundi in January 2016 (\$332,000) and for the Special Adviser and his staff (\$1,237,000) to undertake regular visits to Burundi for consultations with government officials and other national and international stakeholders and to travel regionally and internationally for consultations with Member States, United Nations offices, the African Union, the East African Community and non-governmental organizations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that it was envisioned that the Special Adviser would undertake 66 trips in 2016, ranging from one to five days, and would be

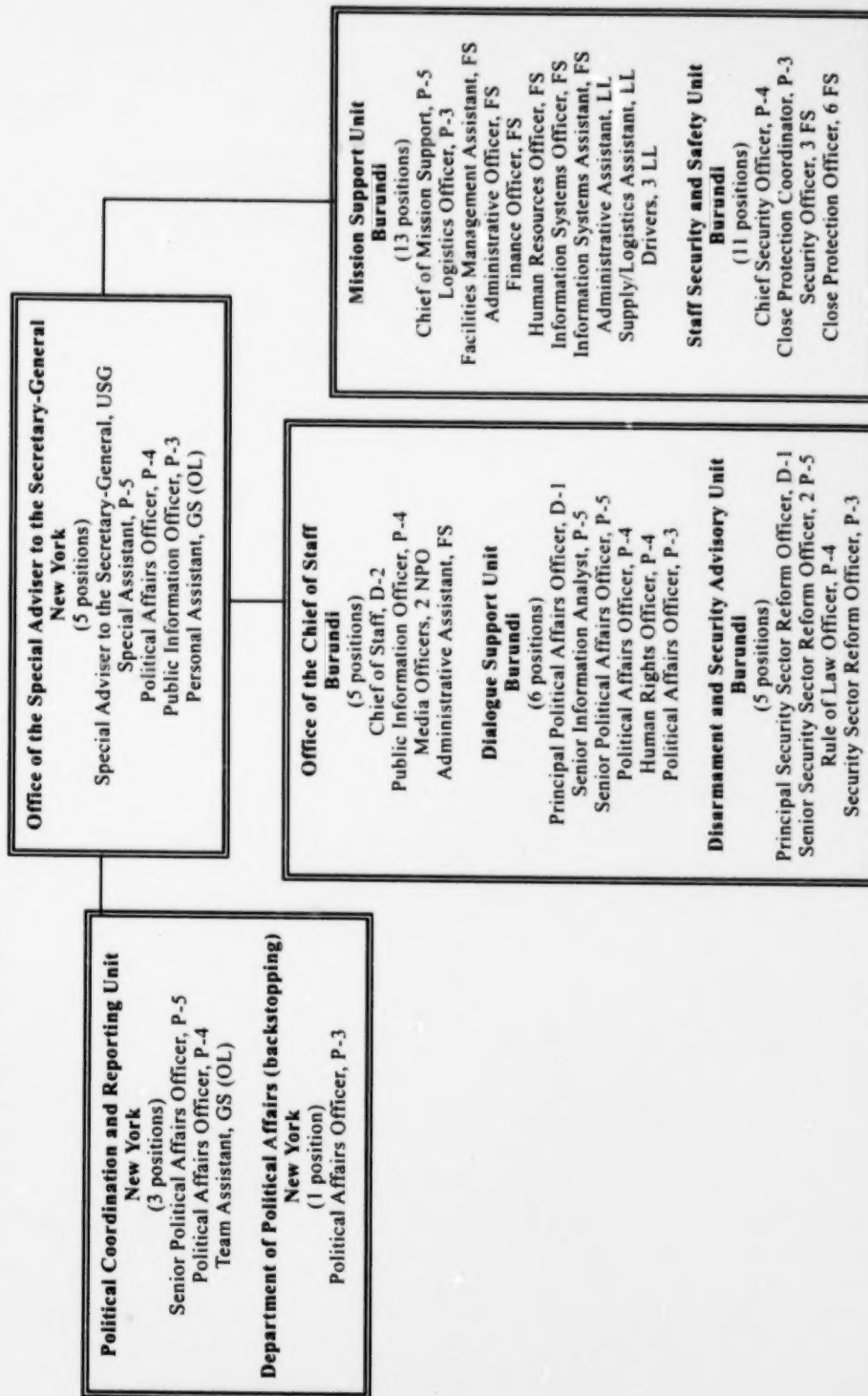
accompanied by three staff members on most occasions. In this connection, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that it was not possible, at present, for the Special Adviser to be located in the country and that this was the reason for the travel requirement. With regard to the travel of staff on temporary duty assignment from other missions, who are available to travel to the team in Burundi during the first months of the operation of the mission, the Committee was informed that the requirement of \$248,000 for that purpose would provide for the travel of 22 such staff for a combined duration of 643 days, during the period from January to May 2016.

22. The Advisory Committee emphasizes that resources for official travel must be utilized judiciously and that trips should be consolidated, when operationally appropriate. Other means of communication, including videoconferencing, should be utilized and the requirements for accompanying staff should be reduced, as appropriate.

III. Recommendations for action required of the General Assembly

23. The resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General (thematic cluster I), which are set out in paragraphs 30 (a) and (b) of the report of the Secretary-General, are not included in the resources for special political missions, approved by the General Assembly, in section XX of its resolution 70/248. **Subject to its recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the budget in the amount of \$8,492,100 net (\$9,916,500 gross) for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the period from January to December 2016; and approval of a charge in the amount of \$8,492,100 (net of staff assessment) against the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**

Proposed organization chart for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, 2016



Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; D, Director; P, Professional; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

**Proposed United Nations Secretariat contribution to the
United Nations Development Group cost-sharing
arrangement for the resident coordinator system**

**Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

I. Introduction and background

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed United Nations Secretariat contribution to the United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system (A/70/703). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding through written responses received on 10 March 2016.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly urged the United Nations development system to provide further financial, technical and organizational support for the resident coordinator system. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the United Nations development system, and based on the recent review of existing funding modalities in support of the resident coordinator system called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/7 of 18 July 2011, to submit, for the consideration of the Council and the Assembly in 2013, concrete proposals on the modalities for the funding of the resident coordinator system in order to ensure that resident coordinators had the necessary stable and predictable resources to fulfil their mandate effectively, without compromising resources allocated to programmatic activities, with due regard for the principle of fairness, which should reflect the direct involvement of each agency, based on the proportion of services used.

3. The Advisory Committee further recalls that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2014/14 of 14 July 2014, noted with appreciation progress achieved in implementing the cost-sharing agreement for the resident coordinator system and,



while noting the funding gap for 2014 and 2015, requested entities of the United Nations development system that had not already done so to take appropriate actions to implement the agreement, subject to the approval of their governing bodies and without impacting programme delivery, including by paying their contribution in full, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his regular reporting to the Council updates on agency-specific progress in that regard. This position was reiterated by the Council in its resolution 2015/15 of 29 June 2015 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/221 of 21 December 2015.

4. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 9 of its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2014 session (A/69/609), stressed that the General Assembly had not yet considered the cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system and the related United Nations contribution. In that regard, the Committee conveyed its expectation that any additional resource requirements relating to the United Nations share of the resident coordinator system would be submitted alongside the proposed cost-sharing arrangement for consideration and approval by the Assembly. The Assembly, in its resolution 69/262 of 29 December 2014, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee. In the same resolution, the Assembly recalled paragraph 9 of the report of the Committee, noted the consideration of the cost-sharing arrangement by the Assembly, and looked forward to receiving all relevant information on the resource requirements for the United Nations share in the arrangement in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

5. The Advisory Committee further recalls that, under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (see A/70/6 (Sect. 9)), the Secretary-General requested a provision of \$13,000,000 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, representing the contribution of the United Nations Secretariat to the resident coordinator system for the biennium. The Committee, among the comments, observations and recommendations contained in the first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/7), noted that, inasmuch as not enough information had been provided with regard to the cost-sharing formula, it was not in a position to recommend the approval of the requested resources. In concurring with the Committee's recommendation, the General Assembly, in paragraph 72 of its resolution 70/247 of 23 December 2015, recalled paragraphs IV.24 to IV.28 of the report of the Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to provide further detailed information on the proposed Secretariat contribution to support the resident coordinator system at the first part of the resumed seventieth session of the Assembly.

6. The report of the Secretary-General (A/70/703) has been submitted pursuant to paragraph 72 of General Assembly resolution 70/247 and, as indicated by the Secretary-General therein, it contains information provided by the United Nations Development Group/Development Operations Coordination Office, which highlights the role of the resident coordinator system. Information is also provided on the United Nations system-wide cost-sharing arrangement, the cost-sharing formula and the proposed United Nations Secretariat contribution to the resident coordinator system for the biennium 2016-2017, in the amount of \$13,321,574.

II. The role of the resident coordinator system

7. In paragraphs 6 to 13, the report of the Secretary-General outlines the role of the United Nations resident coordinator system as the cornerstone of a coherent United Nations system that is "fit for purpose" to deliver integrated support to

Governments, as well as to support the Secretary-General, United Nations Secretariat entities and United Nations regional and country operations. It is also indicated that the resident coordinator system help enable the Organization to be a more relevant, effective and reliable partner for Governments in countries where the United Nations has a programme and policy presence.

8. The Secretary-General's report also indicates that resident coordinators serve as his representatives at the country level, thereby supporting initiatives extending beyond the United Nations development system. The support provided to United Nations Secretariat offices and departments includes access to government entities at the country level, data and information-sharing, sociopolitical and economic analysis, management of events and conferences, regular facilitation of technical assistance missions, and backstopping of high-level visits to countries, including by the Secretary-General, as well as implementation of country-level activities in situations where the Secretariat has minimal or no physical presence at the national level.

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that other core functions performed by the resident coordinator system for all United Nations development system entities included strategic analysis and planning; oversight of the United Nations country programming cycle; support to national coordination systems and processes; development and management of shared operational support services; crisis management preparedness and response; and external communication and advocacy.

III. System-wide cost-sharing arrangement

Global budget for the resident coordinator system

10. The Secretary-General's report indicates that the sustainability of the resident coordinator system relies on the system-wide cost-sharing arrangement of the United Nations Development Group, which replaced the previous ad hoc approach to cost-sharing, and also indicates that the global budget for the resident coordinator system amounts to \$124.8 million in 2016 and \$127.2 million in 2017.

11. Upon enquiry regarding how the global budget of the United Nations resident coordinator system had been originally determined, the Advisory Committee was informed that a study undertaken in 2012 had determined that some \$131 million had been spent globally on the resident coordinator system in 2011. The Committee was further informed that owing to severe funding constraints across the system, the budget for the resident coordinator system had been maintained at 2011 expenditure levels, with the exception of adjustment made annually at approximately 3 per cent in accordance with staff pro forma cost adjustments, as determined by the International Civil Service Commission for the United Nations system as a whole. In 2014, which was the first year of implementation of the existing cost-sharing arrangement, the budget was reduced to \$121.8 million upon the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Network of the High-level Committee on Management, subject to future adjustments for staff pro forma costs as determined by the Commission.

12. The Advisory Committee requested further information on how the budget had been formulated, including details regarding, inter alia, the cost elements that had been included or not included in the expenditure level of \$131 million established in 2012; the basis for the subsequent reduction to \$121.8 million in 2014 and the increase to \$124.8 million and \$127.2 million in 2016 and 2017, respectively; the services to be provided; and a breakdown of the budget by object of expenditure. The

requested information was not provided to the Advisory Committee during its consideration of the Secretary-General's report (see also paras. 17 and 20 below).

Cost-sharing arrangement

13. The Secretary-General's report indicates that, as the coordinator and custodian of the resident coordinator system, UNDP will continue to provide backbone funding in the amount of \$88.8 million out of the \$124.8 million global budget in 2016 and \$90.5 million out of the \$127.2 million global budget in 2017, with the remaining funding requirement of \$36.0 million in 2016 and \$36.7 million in 2017 to be shared by member organizations of the United Nations Development Group,¹ including UNDP.

14. The Secretary-General's report also indicates that, in the initial funding cycle of the resident coordinator system which was included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, 19 United Nations Secretariat entities² were expected to contribute a total of \$5.5 million towards the cost-sharing arrangement in 2014 and \$5.7 million in 2015. For the biennium 2016-2017, the United Nations Secretariat is expected to contribute \$13.3 million (\$6.5 million in 2016 and \$6.8 million in 2017), which represents approximately 18.2 per cent of the total expected from United Nations system entities other than UNDP. The Secretary-General indicates that the United Nations Secretariat is the only member of the United Nations Development Group that did not participate in the 2014-2015 funding cycle of the cost-sharing arrangement and explains that without the Secretariat's full contribution, resident coordinators may not have the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates effectively during the biennium.

15. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, before the biennium 2014-2015, UNDP backbone support for the resident coordinator system was complemented by approximately \$31 million paid by development partners, mostly to the United Nations Country Coordination Fund, and an estimated

¹ United Nations Secretariat; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Population Fund; UNAIDS; United Nations Office for Project Services; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Children's Fund; World Food Programme; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; World Tourism Organization; World Health Organization; and World Meteorological Organization.

² Members: United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Observers: United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and Office of the Deputy Secretary-General.

\$9 million through ad hoc cost-sharing by the United Nations system at the country level. The Committee was also informed that, with Member States starting to discontinue direct funding of coordination functions and calling for a system-wide sharing of the cost of those functions by the United Nations development system, the United Nations Development Group had started implementing the cost-sharing arrangement in 2014, based on a cost-shared budget of \$33.7 million for 2014 and \$34.7 million for 2015. The Committee was further informed, however, that the overall funding shortfall from all Development Group members amounted to \$10 million in 2014, of which \$5.5 million was expected to have been contributed by the United Nations Secretariat; and \$11.4 million in 2015, of which it was expected that \$5.7 million would be contributed by the United Nations Secretariat. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the funding shortfalls, amounting to \$21.4 million for the biennium 2014-2015, of which \$11.2 million had been expected from the Secretariat, was covered by contributions from development partners on an exceptional basis, through the strategic reserve managed by the Development Operations Coordination Office, as well as through deferring some recruitment activities originally planned for 2014. **The Advisory Committee notes that a request for the United Nations Secretariat's contribution to the cost-sharing arrangement for the biennium 2014-2015 was not submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General.**

16. The Advisory Committee also enquired about the likelihood of any other United Nations system entities, in addition to the existing 19 members, joining the cost-sharing arrangement, which could necessitate adjustments to the cost-sharing formula. The Committee was informed that, in 2014, the United Nations Development Group had conducted a comprehensive reform of its membership criteria, resulting in an eligibility for membership of six additional United Nations system entities, namely, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Universal Postal Union and the World Intellectual Property Organization. While these newly eligible entities have yet to confirm their membership, it was indicated that they would be expected to contribute to the cost-sharing arrangement in the initial year of their membership or at the first budgetary opportunity thereafter, which would proportionately lower the contributions expected from the existing members. **The Advisory Committee expects that the cost-sharing arrangement, which will be presented to the General Assembly for approval, will take into account any updates in the membership of the United Nations Development Group.**

Salaries and support structures of Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions who also serve as resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators

17. The Advisory Committee enquired how the cost of salaries and support structures for the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions who also serve as resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators had been factored into the cost-sharing arrangement. The Committee was informed that the salaries and common staff costs for these officials were shared equally between UNDP and the United Nations Secretariat and that the 50 per cent share of UNDP was funded from UNDP

core resources as part of the backbone support for the resident coordinator system. This, according to the representatives of the Secretary-General, was the case in 14 countries (encompassing seven peacekeeping operations, six special political missions and one field office)³ as of February 2016. The Committee was also informed that, according to the existing arrangement, the United Nations Secretariat fully covers the cost of official travel and other operational support costs for the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who are also resident coordinators in these 14 field missions/office, while 50 per cent of their salaries and common staff costs are billed to UNDP on a semi-annual basis. **The Advisory Committee notes that the existing cost-sharing arrangement for the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who also serve as resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators does not include their related operational support costs, including official travel. Considering that these costs are integral to the performance of their duties, the Committee is of the view that they should be reflected in the global budget of the resident coordinator system and factored into the cost-sharing arrangement.**

Cost-sharing formula

18. The cost-sharing formula for the resident coordinator system is presented in the annex to the Secretary-General's report. As indicated in paragraph 13 above, UNDP as the coordinator and custodian of the resident coordinator system continues to provide the backbone costs of the resident coordinator system at the global, regional and country levels, with funding amounting to \$88.8 million in 2016 and \$90.5 million in 2017. The remaining funding requirement of \$36.0 million in 2016 and \$36.7 million in 2017 will be shared by the United Nations Development Group, including UNDP, according to a cost-sharing formula based on the following three costs factors: (a) annual base fee, which is a flat fee paid by each member organization in the amount of \$100,000, \$175,000 or \$350,000, based on its average annual expenditure; (b) entity size in terms of staff size and expenditure based on the most recent financial and personnel statistics used by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (humanitarian and peacekeeping expenditures as well as the loan portfolio of the International Fund for Agricultural Development will be excluded from the calculation of agency size; and peacekeeping staff numbers will also be excluded from the calculation of agency size); and (c) system load: entities will contribute in proportion to the share of currently operational United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and integrated strategic frameworks in which they participate at the country level.

³ Peacekeeping operations: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Nations Mission in Liberia, United Nations Mission in South Sudan, United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Special political missions: United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, United Nations Support Mission in Libya, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq; and one field office: Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

19. Table 4 of the Secretary-General's report provides information on the cost-sharing formula based on which the \$13.3 million United Nations Secretariat contribution to the requirements of the resident coordinator system was derived.

20. The Advisory Committee notes that, while significant emphasis has been placed on entity size (staffing and expenditure) in the cost-sharing formula, it is still not clear how these factors determine the level of services provided by the resident coordinator system to each United Nations Development Group member organization. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraph 128 of General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, which was reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/221, and notes that contributions should reflect the direct involvement of each entity, based on the proportion of services used. It is not clear to the Committee how this requirement is reflected in the cost-sharing formula presented in the Secretary-General's report.

Budgeting and performance reporting mechanisms

21. It is indicated in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the Secretary-General's report that the resident coordinators are required to report annually on the results of their coordination activities and on the funds for which they were accountable. It is also indicated that the Development Operations Coordination Office, in its capacity as the United Nations Development Group secretariat, prepares an annual global results report, which is presented by the Chair of the Development Group to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and that the Chief Executives Board secretariat prepares an annual overview report, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its Coordination and Management Meeting sessions held in June and December of each year. It is further indicated that the global fiduciary management and reporting role for the resident coordinator system funds is fulfilled by UNDP and is reflected in UNDP financial statements and audited accounts which are submitted annually to the Advisory Committee and to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. These financial statements would show the utilization of the United Nations Secretariat contribution to the resident coordinator system. The Secretary-General also proposes that supplementary information be provided to the General Assembly on the actual and projected expenditures of the resident coordinator system, including the contribution by the Secretariat, on a biennial basis in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget.

22. The Advisory Committee takes note of the financial and performance reporting mechanisms proposed for the resident coordinator system. The Committee notes, however, that the budget of the resident coordinator system comprises funds from both assessed and voluntary sources contributed by the different member organizations, which are overseen by their respective governing bodies, each of which reviews only the funding related to its specific contribution. Beyond the requirement for periodic financial reporting, which in the Committee's view is fragmented, the Committee notes the absence of a unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement, including the global budget of the resident coordinator system. In the Committee's view, the UNDP Executive Board may be best positioned to address this issue, considering that, in the existing arrangement, UNDP is the coordinator and custodian of the resident coordinator system, while

the governing body of each member organization will continue to approve the resources related to that organization's contribution. In this case, and taking into account its mandate to review the budgets funded from both assessed and voluntary contributions, the Committee will review and give advice on the global budget of the resident coordinator system in the context of its consideration of the institutional budget of UNDP.

23. On a related matter, and given the complexity of this funding arrangement as well as the importance of accountability for the good management of the Organization, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to advise on the ownership and responsibility for its implementation within the United Nations Secretariat in his next report to the General Assembly.

IV. Conclusion

24. The actions that the General Assembly is requested to take are contained in paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General needs to provide further justification for the proposed arrangement for the resident coordinator system. Taking into account its comments and observations, as presented in the present report, the Committee is not in a position to recommend the approval of all the resources requested by the Secretary-General at this time. In the interim, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of \$6,535,653, which would ensure funding for the resident coordinator system for the year 2016, while allowing time for the Secretary-General to refine his proposal and resubmit it to the General Assembly for consideration.

25. Subject to its comments and observations as set out above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:

- (a) Take note of the Secretary-General's report;
- (b) Approve an appropriation in the amount of \$6,535,653 for the biennium 2016-2017, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, which represents a charge against the contingency fund;
- (c) Request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the cost-sharing arrangement for consideration and approval by the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 70/221 and 70/247.